

# Renewal of Los Alamos National Laboratory's Permit for Hazardous Waste Treatment Facilities

*This is the third and final installment of a three part series about the Los Alamos National Laboratory's hazardous waste facility permit renewal application and the opportunity for public involvement in this process.*

## TO BRING YOU UP TO DATE...

The first installment in this series provided an overview of the permit renewal process. The second described hazardous waste storage activities at specific locations at Los Alamos National Laboratory.

The permit renewal request relates only to hazardous waste storage and treatment at specified locations on-site and not to disposal activities.

This week, we discuss how the renewed permit renewal will help ensure the safe treatment of hazardous waste at Los Alamos National Laboratory.

**The renewed permit will regulate the treatment and storage, not disposal, of hazardous waste and the hazardous component of mixed waste (hazardous waste and radioactive waste) at a number of locations at Los Alamos National Laboratory. It will not address the management of radioactive waste or the radioactive component of mixed waste, which are regulated by other federal programs.**

## WHAT DO WE MEAN BY "TREATMENT"?

Treatment is a process that transforms a waste to neutralize it, making it safer to handle and/or easier to dispose of.

## WHICH TREATMENT UNITS ARE COVERED?

The permit renewal application includes three treatment units at two areas of the laboratory—Technical Areas 16 and 55. Two of these units are used for open burning of high explosives and high explosive-contaminated waste, which must be treated on site for safety reasons. The third treatment unit is a cementation process that stabilizes mixed waste at Technical Area 55.

## WHAT TYPES OF TREATMENT RELATED ACTIVITIES ARE COVERED IN THE PERMIT RENEWAL APPLICATION?

The permit renewal application describes the specific procedures for operating open-burn and cementation treatment processes that will ensure that treatment activities do not significantly impact human health or the environment. They address:

- inspection of treatment units,
- planning for emergencies,
- workforce training,
- identifying the types of waste to be treated, and the end result of treatment,
- security measures for preventing access to waste treatment units, and
- future closure of treatment units

## HAVE YOUR SAY!

Once the Hazardous Waste Bureau releases the draft permit, the public will have an opportunity to review and provide written comments on its content. The Hazardous Waste Bureau will evaluate and respond to the public comments.

The public and other interested parties can contribute valuable information and ideas to improve the quality of the final draft permit. Los Alamos National Laboratory would like you to be part of this review process.

## NEED TO KNOW MORE?

To obtain more information, copies of this series, or be added to a mailing list to receive updated information, please contact *Carmen M. Rodriguez* at Los Alamos National Laboratory by phone at **505-665-6770**, or via email at **carmenr@lanl.gov**. We can also arrange presentations on this subject for your organization or group.

***Thank you for taking the time to read this series.***

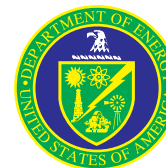


**The Technical Area 55 Waste Cementation Unit is inside a glovebox. Inset: shows mixer unit in glovebox.**



**Propane burners in the Open-Burning Treatment Unit at Technical Area 16.**

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